

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: P, Mark Powell **Confirmation No.:** 4992
Serial No.: 10/767,293 **Group Art Unit:** 4172
Filed: January 29, 2004 **Examiner:** Evans, Erin Lindsay
Title: CONTACT LENS MOLD PRINTING SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

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August 24, 2008

(Date)

Linda Shutterly

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

/Linda Shutterly/

(Signature)

August 24, 2008

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement dated June 11, 2008, applicant hereby elects Group 1, Claims 1-9 and 21, without prejudice. The non-elected claims are cancelled in the attached amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

What is Claimed:

1. **(Original).** A method of applying a colorant to a contact lens mold, comprising:
 - maintaining an overpressure of inert gas in an inert atmosphere chamber that comprises at least one contact lens mold and at least one isolation shutter;
 - opening said isolation shutter;
 - introducing a printing comprising colorant into said chamber;
 - applying said colorant to said contact lens mold;
 - removing said printing device from said chamber; and
 - closing said isolation shutter.
2. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said inert atmosphere chamber comprises less than about 0.5 weight percent oxygen prior to opening said isolation shutter.
3. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said inert atmosphere chamber comprises less than about 3 weight percent oxygen while said isolation shutter is opened.
4. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said inert atmosphere chamber comprises less than about 0.5 percent oxygen, said percent oxygen being measured at about 2 seconds after closing said isolation shutter.
5. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said isolation shutter slidably opens and closes.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said isolation shutter remains open for less than about 2 seconds.
7. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said inert gas comprises nitrogen.
8. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said overpressure of inert gas gives rise to an inert gas velocity of at least about 0.5 meters per second measured using an anemometer positioned adjacent to an opening in the inert atmosphere chamber, said opening being provided by maintaining said isolation shutter in the opened position.

9. **(Original).** The method according to claim 1, wherein said colorant is applied by pad stamping said colorant to said contact lens mold.

Claims 10 – 20 Cancelled

21. **(Original).** A method of applying a colorant to a contact lens mold, comprising:

maintaining an overpressure of inert gas in an inert atmosphere chamber comprises at least one contact lens mold;

introducing a printing device comprising colorant into said chamber;

applying said colorant to said contact lens mold; and

removing said printing device from said chamber.

A petition for a two month extension of time and authorization to charge the fee is also submitted herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 10-0750/VTN5039/JPK.

Applicants request that the foregoing election be entered.

Respectfully submitted,

/J P Kincart/

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